

DEC 03 2004

Case 7132-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Examiner: K. Pechhold
Mark D. ROBINSON : Via Facsimile: (703) 872-9306
Serial No.: 10/124,777 : A. U. 3671
Filed: December 2, 2003 :
For: MANWAY AND MANHOLE :
PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR :
NEGATIVE PRESSURE TANK :
ACCESS WAYS :

A M E N D M E N T

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the June 3, 2004 Office Action, please amend
the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

A Small Entity Declaration - Small Business Concern is attached
following page 9 of this paper.

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Serial No. 10/724,777
Amendment dated December 3, 2004
In Reply of Office Action date June 3, 2004

Applicant's claimed invention, as Halferty et al. advocated the use of an inwardly opening manhole cover for use on a positive pressure storage tank, as opposed to Applicant's claimed outwardly opening manhole cover configured for being provided on a negative pressure storage tank.

For brevity of discussion, the patentability of the dependent claims which set forth additional novel and unobvious specifics of Applicant's invention, will be allowed to rest on their dependence from independent claim 19 at this time.

To provide Applicant with the varied scope of protection to which he is entitled, Applicant has set forth new dependent claims 42 and 43.

In sum, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance with claims 19-22, 27-30, 42, and 43, of which claim 19 is in independent form.

Applicant has concurrently filed the attached Small Entity Declaration-Small Business Concern showing that assignee is entitled to small entity status.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 19-2105 in the amount of \$490.00 (small entity) for a three(3) month extension of time.

According, it is believed that no additional fee is due for

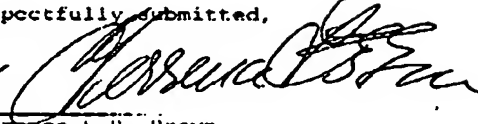
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this submission.

Should any outstanding formal matters or other issues
remain, please call Terrence Brown to resolve such.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

December 3, 2004 

Terrence L.B. Brown
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Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile
transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office

On December 3, 2004

Date

X Sherry M. Beckham
Signature

X Sherry M. Beckham
Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

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